



MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS EDUCATION

School Improvement Conference, 2016

Presented by:

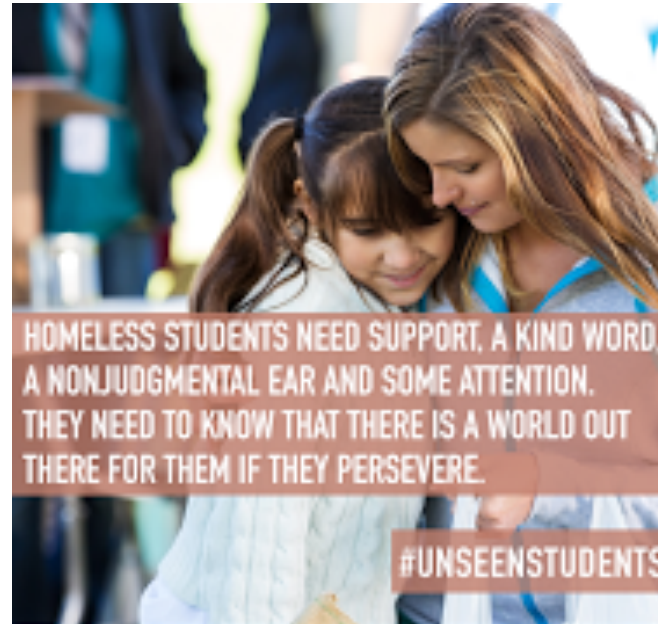
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HOMELESS STUDENTS NEED HOUSING, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO STAY IN AND SUCCEED IN SCHOOL.



#UNSEENSTUDENTS

Source: Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools www.GradNation.org/Homeless



HOMELESS STUDENTS NEED SUPPORT, A KIND WORD, A NONJUDGMENTAL EAR AND SOME ATTENTION. THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT THERE IS A WORLD OUT THERE FOR THEM IF THEY PERSEVERE.

#UNSEENSTUDENTS

Source: Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools www.GradNation.org/Homeless

94% OF HOMELESS STUDENTS DON'T HAVE A CONSISTENT PLACE TO CALL HOME.

50% HAVE SLEPT IN A CAR, PARK, ABANDONED BUILDING, BUS STATION OR PUBLIC PLACE.

#UNSEENSTUDENTS



Source: Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools www.GradNation.org/Homeless



MCKINNEY-VENTO

- **Addresses the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.**
- **Originally passed in 1987**
- **Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**
- **Works hand-in-hand with Title IA and other federal education programs.**

CAUSES AND IMPACT OF HOMELESSNESS

- **Lack of Affordable Housing**
- **Chronic Poverty**
- **Health Problems**
 - Addiction, Mental Health**
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Natural and other disasters**
- **Abuse/Neglect/family dysfunction (unaccompanied youth)**

- **High incidences of acute and chronic illnesses, depression and anxiety.**
- **Homelessness in early childhood is associated with poor classroom engagement and poor social skills in early elementary school.**
- **The achievement gaps between homeless and low-income elementary students tend to persist, and may even worsen over time.**
- **A youth who experiences homelessness is 87% more likely to drop out of school.**




BARRIERS TO EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- **Poor health, fatigue, hunger**
- **Emotional trauma, depression, anxiety**
- **Stereotypes and lack of awareness**
- **Under-identification**
- **High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity.**
- **Enrollment requirements (school records, health records, proof of residence, guardianship)**
- **Lack of transportation**
- **Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.**

The McKinney-Vento Act (Section 725) defines “homeless children and youth” (school-age and younger) as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.
 - Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
 - Abandoned in hospitals.
 - Awaiting foster care placement.
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Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

Children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

This would include runaways living in runaway shelters, abandoned buildings, cars, on the streets, or in other inadequate housing; children and youth denied housing by their families (sometimes referred to “throwaway children and youth”); and school-age unwed mothers living in homes for unwed mothers because they have no other housing available.

In determining whether or not a child or youth is homeless, consider the relative permanence of the living arrangements. Determinations of homelessness should be made on a case-by-case basis.

Nighttime Residence

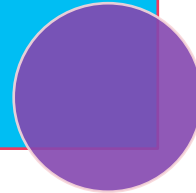
- Used on a predictable, routine, or consistent basis

Regular



- Stationary, permanent, and not subject to change.

Fixed



- Sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments.

Adequate



HOMELESS LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES

In 42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(6)(A), the McKinney-Vento Act lists the responsibilities of the local liaison. The law states local liaisons will ensure that:

- **homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination with other agencies;**
- **homeless children and youth enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school;**
- **homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services for which they are eligible, including Head Start programs and preschool programs administered by the LEA, as well as referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;**

- the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
- public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated where they receive services, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
- enrollment disputes are mediated according to local, state, and federal policies; and
- the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin.



COMMON SIGNS OF HOMELESSNESS


NOTE: WHILE THESE ARE CONSIDERED COMMON SIGNS, PLEASE RECOGNIZE THAT THEY ONLY OFFER GENERAL GUIDANCE. THERE IS SIGNIFICANT VARIABILITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL-AGE HOMELESS POPULATION. INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS MAY DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Lack of Continuity in Education

- Attendance at many different schools
- Lack of records needed to enroll
- Inability to pay fees
- Gaps in skill development
- Mistaken diagnosis of abilities
- Poor organizational skills

Poor Health/Nutrition

- Lack of immunizations and/or immunization records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Respiratory problems
- Skin rashes
- Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

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- **Transportation and Attendance Problems**
 - **Erratic attendance and tardiness**
 - **Numerous absences**
 - **Lack of participation in after-school activities**
 - **Lack of participation in field trips**
 - **Inability to contact parents**


- **Poor Hygiene**
- **Lack of shower facilities/washers, etc.**
- **Wearing same clothes for several days**
- **Inconsistent grooming**

TITLE I SET-ASIDE ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

- Items of clothing, particularly if necessary to meet a school's dress or uniform requirement
- Clothing and shoes necessary to participate in physical education classes
- Student fees that are necessary to participate in the general education program
- Personal school supplies such as backpacks and notebooks
- Birth certificates necessary to enroll in school
- Immunizations

- **Medical and dental services**
- **Eyeglasses and hearing aids**
- **Counseling services to address anxiety related to homelessness that is impeding learning**
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- **Outreach services to students living in shelters, motels, and other temporary residences**
- **Extended learning time (before and after school, Saturday classes, summer school) to compensate for lack of quiet time for homework in shelters or other overcrowded living conditions**



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- **Tutoring services, especially in shelters or other locations where homeless students live**
 - **Parental involvement specifically oriented to reaching out to parents of homeless students**
 - **Fees for AP and IB testing**
 - **Fees for SAT/ACT testing**
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RESOURCES

- NCHE homeless education awareness information http://center.serve.org/nche/ibt/aw_homeless_ed.php
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) <http://www.naehcy.org/>
- Sample enrollment forms at <http://center.serve.org/nche/forum/enrollment.php>
- Sample caregiver form at: http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/toolkit/app_d.pdf
- Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/liaison_toolkit.php

Being homeless doesn't just mean living in shelters...



of formerly homeless students surveyed say homelessness was something they experienced more than once.



say they were homeless both with a parent or guardian and alone.



stayed with other people rather than in one consistent place they called home.



slept in a car, park, abandoned building, bus station or other public place.

Learn what matters. Get involved.
[GradNation.org/Homeless](https://gradnation.org/homeless)

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

#UnseenStudents

HOMELESS STUDENTS IN AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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